

## The Futch Family

The Futch Family lived in New Hanover County, North Carolina, around the Holly Shelter area during the time of the Civil War (1861-1865). Like many families during that time, The Futches had a male family member enlisted in the Armed Forces. John Futch, Co. K, 3rd North Carolina Troops often wrote letters to his wife, Martha Ramsey Futch and the rest of his family while he was at war. John Futch enlisted February 1, 1862 in New Hanover County and was reported absent without leave from August 11-31, 1863. It was because of this “absence without leave” that he was shot for desertion on September 5, 1863. By reading original letters like the ones sent between the Futch Family, we can better understand that period in history from a first hand account.

### MINI WEBQUEST

In this activity, you will get a look at how the Futch Family (and many other Civil War Families) may have felt and how they corresponded. By reading information from credible sources, including primary source documents, you will see how original ideas and images can inform our history.

Read the questions pertaining to the Futches and follow the links above them to find their answers. You should then record your answers on the worksheet in the space provided. (The links will open in pop up windows.)

[Read the original letter sent from John to Martha Futch.](#)

[Read the original letter sent from Catherine Ramsey to John.](#)

1. What do you learn about Mrs. Ramsey from her letter?
2. What do you learn about John Futch from Mrs. Ramsey's letter? From his letter?
3. What do we learn about the home front during the Civil War?

[Read the linked article on civil war mail from the National Postal Museum.](#)

4. How did letters get “mailed” during the war?

[Use Google Maps to search for Holly Shelter, NC to describe its location.](#)

5. Where is Holly Shelter?